

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 22, 2006

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 18

Introduced by Senators Denham and Maldonado

(Principal coauthor: ~~Assembly Member Salinas~~ coauthors: *Assembly Members Laird and Salinas*)

January 17, 2006

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to veterans’ cemeteries.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 18, as amended, Denham. National veterans’ cemetery: Fort Ord.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to ~~build and maintain a national~~ *approve construction of a state* veterans’ cemetery at Fort Ord in Monterey County *when the state applies to the federal State Cemetery Grants Program*.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Our liberties are preserved by those willing to
2 make the ultimate sacrifice; and

3 WHEREAS, Our debt to those who serve can never truly be
4 measured or repaid and therefore ~~we are obligated~~ *it is important*
5 to show our gratitude ~~in our own small way and pray it is~~
6 ~~received~~ in the humble, thankful, and gracious spirit in which it is
7 offered; and

8 WHEREAS, The actions we take today will determine the fate
9 of our liberties tomorrow, or, as George Washington said, “The
10 willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in
11 any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as

1 to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and
2 appreciated by their nation”; and

3 WHEREAS, One of the greatest expressions of unending
4 gratitude *to our veterans* is recognition in perpetuity by being
5 laid to rest in a ~~national veterans’ cemetery~~ *veterans’ cemetery*;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, There are few locations in the United States with
8 the grandeur of the California coastline at Monterey; and

9 WHEREAS, Fort Ord in Monterey County, California, also
10 shares a long and honorable history with veterans of the United
11 States of America; and

12 WHEREAS, Local citizens and governments continue to
13 recognize their connection with veterans and have donated land
14 for the purpose of honoring America’s veterans; and

15 ~~WHEREAS, The dutifully elected congressional~~
16 ~~representatives of the people directed the Secretary of Veterans~~
17 ~~Affairs and the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs to examine~~
18 ~~the “unique opportunity” for a cemetery at Fort Ord; and~~

19 ~~WHEREAS, The secretary and under secretary have rejected~~
20 ~~the people’s authority by not abiding by the spirit of the~~
21 ~~congressional directive; and~~

22 ~~WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans~~
23 ~~Affairs stated as recently as January 6, 2006, that they are driven~~
24 ~~by their mission to serve veterans who have answered their last~~
25 ~~muster call on this earth, that 687,000 veterans will pass this~~
26 ~~year, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has~~
27 ~~the money and is excited that it “has the ability to meet the needs~~
28 ~~of an aging veteran population” and that it recognizes “these~~
29 ~~cemeteries become national shrines”; and~~

30 ~~WHEREAS, The State of California is working to establish an~~
31 ~~endowment fund; and~~

32 ~~WHEREAS, The proposed endowment fund will consist of~~
33 ~~monetary and in-kind donations from public and private entities,~~
34 ~~as well as fees and transfers from the General Fund to pay the~~
35 ~~costs of maintaining the veterans’ cemetery at Fort Ord; and~~

36 WHEREAS, It is recognized by the State of California that the
37 Fort Ord location in Monterey County contains all tangible and
38 intangible requirements for the making of a national shrine,
39 including a history of defending the United States, long service
40 with veterans, scenic views, and ~~a~~ *an* honored place in the heart

1 of the community, the state, and the nation, even if not in the
2 heart of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
5 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
6 memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to
7 ~~build and maintain a national~~ *approve construction of a state*
8 veterans' cemetery at Fort Ord in Monterey County, California
9 *when the state applies to the United States Department of*
10 *Veterans Affairs State Cemetery Grants Program in order to fund*
11 *100 percent of the cost of constructing and establishing a state*
12 *veterans' cemetery at Ford Ord;* and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
14 this resolution to the President of the United States, to all
15 members of the Congress of the United States, to the United
16 States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Under Secretary for
17 Memorial Affairs with the United States *Department of Veterans*
18 ~~Affairs Department.~~